



# THE OG UPDATE

## THE HEART OF OG

You will rarely ever see Orton-Gillingham listed on a child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). If your child has an IEP, districts will typically only list "multisensory program" as the student's reading program. There are multisensory programs, like, Wilson and Spire, that use some of the OG principles. However, OG is not a curriculum-based program but an individualized *approach*. The heart of OG are the principles that embody this uniquely individual approach.

OG Lessons are **personalized**. That means that teaching begins with recognizing the differing needs of learners. While those with dyslexia share similarities, there are differences in their language needs. Instruction is **multisensory** so students can see, hear, feel, and have an awareness of motion that is brought together by the thinking brain. All of this happens at the same time! Instruction must be **diagnostic and prescriptive**. It is diagnostic in the sense that the instructor continuously monitors the verbal, nonverbal, and written responses of the student to identify and analyze the student's problems and progress. This information provides the basis of planning the next lesson. The lesson is prescriptive because it will contain instructional elements that focus upon the resolution of the student's difficulties which builds upon the student's progress noted in the previous lesson. The teacher also sees the errors and repairs them in real time. The teacher employs **direct and explicit instruction** which ensures that the student approaches the learning experience by understanding what is to be learned, why it is to be learned, and how it is to be learned. The **linguistic** principle means that the tutor must fully understand the rules of the English language. OG lessons are **systematic and structured** so the teacher presents information in an ordered manner that indicates the relationship between the present and past material taught. Lessons are **sequential and cumulative**. Step-by-step, learners move from the simple, well-understood material to that which is more complex. Finally, the lessons must be **emotionally sound**. Tutors need to build a rapport with their students in order for them to feel supported and comfortable.

The tutor painstakingly crafts each lesson based on the student's specific learning needs and this is what allows ALL students to benefit from the OG approach.



## Upcoming Events

On Saturday and Sunday, **February 6-7th**, in conjunction with our OG Fellow, Jennings Miller, Literacy Nassau is offering a virtual training of the certified-level module for additional coursework for tutors who have attained their associate-level certification.

Literacy Nassau will be closed for President's Day on **Monday, February 15th**. We will be open during the day (until 4:30 pm) for the remainder of that week. We will also be closed **Saturday, February 20th**. Since we follow the Wantagh UFSD school calendar, we do not have evening hours during school vacations when Wantagh UFSD is closed.

Literacy Nassau  
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516-867-3580

[www.LiteracyNassau.org](http://www.LiteracyNassau.org)  
[knau@LiteracyNassau.org](mailto:knau@LiteracyNassau.org)

## LOVE THIS!

If your child is diagnosed with dyslexia, I highly recommend this ebook written by the website, Nessy. It is called Dyslexia Explained and you can download it here for free:

[www.nessy.com/us/e-book](http://www.nessy.com/us/e-book)

Since many people with dyslexia see in pictures, there are many illustrations in the book to help the reader understand. It can truly



empower your child to understand the how and why behind why he/she struggles so it does not impact self-esteem.

## VIRTUAL "COFFEE & CONVERSATION" FOR OG TUTORS

Pour yourself a hot cup of coffee and sit down at your computer for a virtual evening of "Coffee & Conversation" on **Tuesday, February 23rd** from **7:00-8:00 pm**. It's an opportunity for OG tutors to network and share ideas. Please let us know if there is a specific topic you would like us to discuss. Kim will be available to answer any questions and address any concerns. Please RSVP once the email is sent.



## Words of Wisdom

Anna Gillingham once said,

**“Go as fast as you can but as slow as you must.”**

Tutors need to personalize instruction and be both diagnostic and prescriptive. Learning the OG approach is not a race to 100 hours. It is just the beginning.

# Student Spotlight

By Claire, Age 8

***Do you have a favorite place, favorite toy, or favorite person to spend time with?***

My favorite place to visit is Seaside Park, New Jersey. My favorite toy is Baby Giraffe. My favorite person to spend time with is my twin, Nellie, and my puppy, Sully.

***Tell me about something that is hard for you.***

Reading.



***“I want to be a teacher for kids with dyslexia.”***



### COVID UPDATE

Please note that if someone in your household is required to quarantine due to COVID exposure, you will not be permitted to visit the tutoring center until the quarantine has ended.

Continue virtual instruction rather than expose tutors, students, and staff.

Virtual instruction has proven to be very effective because tutors and students can focus on sound production without the barrier of a mask. Proper lip, tongue, and jaw position are necessary to produce sounds accurately.

***Who is your Orton-Gillingham tutor? Tell me something fun or interesting about her.***

My tutor’s name is Bonnie Buckley. I love Bonnie because she lets me bring candy to my sessions.

***What do you like about tutoring?***

I like the different activities, such as writing in shaving cream.

In our lessons we learn interesting facts about the letters in the alphabet, how to figure out words that I don’t know and spelling rules.

***What is the coolest thing that you’ve learned so far?***

The coolest thing I have learned so far is the “CK Hooray” rule.

***What do you want to be when you grow up?***

I want to be a teacher for kids with dyslexia.

***What would you like to learn more about?***

I would like to learn more words so I can start reading chapter books.

***Some thoughtful words from Claire’s tutor, Bonnie:*** “Claire is a joy! She is so smart and quick. She likes to talk and I’ve learned a lot about her in the last few months. She has already made big improvements in reading and I don’t think there is anything she cannot do, if she puts her mind to it. She is quick to tell me when something isn’t working for her and I admire her ability to speak up for herself at such a young age. I am hopeful that once our time together is over we will keep in touch, I’d like to see how far she goes.”